



HEALTH AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

MAY 18 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (M&RA)
DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Updated Policy for Prevention of Arthropod-Borne Diseases Among
Department of Defense Personnel Deployed to Endemic Areas

- Reference: (a) "Policy for Tick-Borne Encephalitis Preventive Measures for
Department of Defense Personnel Deployed to Endemic Areas,"
October 17, 1996, (HA 97-004, hereby rescinded)
(b) "Policy for Tick-Borne Encephalitis Preventive Measures for US
Forces Deployed During Operation Joint Endeavor," February 20,
1996, (HA 96-031, hereby rescinded)

This memorandum supersedes the above references regarding the
Department of Defense's (DoD) on preventive measures to reduce the risk of tick-
borne diseases for DoD personnel assigned to endemic areas and expands the
policy to apply to arthropod-borne vectors.

Vaccines are not available for most vector borne diseases. The key to
preventing diseases transmitted by insects (such as mosquitoes and sand flies) and
other arthropods (such as ticks and chiggers) is the DoD Insect Repellent System.
This strategy includes simultaneous use of both skin (DEET) and clothing
(Permethrin) repellents and properly worn uniforms. All units must implement the
DoD Insect Repellent System as described in Technical Guide No. 36, "Personal
Protective Measures Against Insects and Other Arthropods of Military
Significance," (Armed Forces Pest Management Board, April 18, 2002)
(http://www.afpmb.org/coweb/guidance_targets/ppms/TG36/TG36.pdf) and the
US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine's fact sheet,
"DoD Insect Repellent System"
(<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/documents/DODInsectRepellentsystem.pdf>).

A high level of compliance with these directives, through Command
emphasis, will provide excellent general protections against vector-borne diseases

HA POLICY: 07-007

(including Leishmaniasis, Malaria, Lyme disease, tick-borne Encephalitis, and West Nile virus infection). Commanders will emphasize personal protective measures to minimize exposure to insects and ticks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ward Cassells', with a stylized flourish at the end.

• S. Ward Cassells, MD